

24 February 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

1. This memorandum recommends action in Paragraph 5.

2. John Scali called today regarding your recent agreement to appear this month before the Overseas Writers, where there would be about 100 active American news writers, or before a group of 30 news writers who would not of necessity be members of the Overseas Writers. Either a luncheon or a dinner could be arranged and the meeting would be a not-for-attribution affair.

3. If you appear before the Overseas Writers, you have the benefit of a well disciplined organization that there will be no public leak of what you say. But when you talk to 100 people, there certainly would be conversational leaks which likely will not appear in print. When you talk to 30 selected individuals, in this case on the responsibility of John Scali, you can pinpoint any message you have just as effectively as if you had talked to the Overseas Writers and you can expect that there will be no leaks, even in this political year and where the 30 will represent both political parties. Should you talk to the 100 people at the Overseas Writers, what you say will be more restrained and more general than if you talk to 30 selected individuals. T

4. The Overseas Writers have their meetings at the Statler at noon, but if such is your desire will have an evening session. Scali is representing Pete Lisagor, the new President, in making these arrangements and will do it any way you see fit.

5. **RECOMMENDATION:** That Scali arrange a luncheon for not more than 30 writers for noon on Monday, 29 February 1960.

STANLEY J. GROCAN
Assistant to the Director